NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Staff Newsletter -- March 21, 1997

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Staff Preview of the Campaign Video

All staff and volunteers are cordially invited to preview the videotape created to promote our current $60 million fundraising effort, *CONNECTING: The Campaign for The Field Museum*. There will be three showings of the 13-minute program in Montgomery Ward Theater. Dates and times follow:

Monday, March 24: 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 26: 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 28: 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Development staff will answer any questions which volunteers and staff members may have regarding the Campaign.

WELCOME

Adam Shapiro joins the staff in Institutional Advancement as Coordinator, Development Services, starting Wednesday, March 26. We welcome Adam to his new role at the Museum where his talents are much needed -- especially his skills as a semi-professional baseball player!

Adam, a Brooklyn native, comes to us directly from Sana'a, Yemen, where he served this past year as Deputy Director of the Yemen Language Center, the Museum's partner in last October's travel program to Yemen and Oman. His undergraduate degree (1994) is from Washington University in St. Louis; his Master's degree (1997) is from Georgetown University.

Willard E. White, Vice President

RUATEPUPUKE MAORI MEETING HOUSE ANNIVERSARY

A celebration of the fourth anniversary of the reopening of Ruatepupuke, the Maori Meeting House, was held March 8 and March 9. Coordinated by **Mary Ann Bloom,** Education Department, the weekend was filled with South Pacific activities for visitors, and in the evening, a formal welcome ceremony, feast and sleepover in the Maori House for guests, staff and volunteers.

Visitors enjoyed Traveling the Pacific at Field Museum as the volunteers presented special activities about volcanoes, navigation, foods, instruments and games. Stanley Field Hall was filled with the exciting music and dance of The Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre of New Zealand.

On March 8, at 5:30 p.m., a formal welcome ceremony was held at the Maori House. Guests were challenged by Turei Toheriri (Maori) and called onto the marae with the karanga chant of JoeAnna Walters (Maori).

Guests were welcomed by greetings from Mary Ann Bloom, Howard Hilliard (Maori), G. B. Starr-Bresette (Ojibwa), Darlene Murray (FM Volunteer), Turei Toherere (Maori), Daniel Rosenblatt (University of Chicago, Maori Studies) and Jeanne LaTraille (Oneida). Guest speakers were Pamela Alfonso (Oneida-Menomine), Vincent Romera (Navajo), John McCarter (FM President), Alani Aloha Lee (Native Hawaiian), Mary Ellen Munley (Education Department Director).

WATCH YOUR MAIL!

1996 Wage and Benefit Statements are in the process of being mailed directly to your home. Questions? Call **Jennifer Noe** in Personnel.

Visitor Services Staff Sell Record Number of Memberships in 1996

Visitor Services staff sold *2,424* memberships in 1996, generating $115,943 of the total membership sales of $582,198 for the year!

These figures represent a dramatic 9.2 % increase in floor sales over 1995, when 2,276 memberships were sold on the floor, generating $106,152 of the total membership sales of $541,093.

The Membership Department has recently initiated a membership incentive program for the Visitor Services Department. The Visitor Services staff is motivated by the program and encouraged to surpass last year's floor sales.

Congratulations to the Visitor Services and Membership Departments on your stellar performance!

Diane White, Public Services

CONGRATULATIONS!
John Weinstein, Photography Department,
is pleased to announce the birth of a son,
Benjamin James Weinstein
born February 19.
Baby and Mom are doing fine.

☞ ARE *YOU* USING ☜ THE SHIPPING DOCK?

All shipping, receiving, dumping, catering or other events requiring use of the dock must be scheduled in advance by calling **A. Bluntson** (x287) in the Shipping office and **Andy Pavasars** (x380) in FP&O. Crown Construction Enterprises has begun the renovation of the dock. The project should be completed by the end of September 1997.

Share your news with the Natural News!

We welcome announcements of "rites of passage" -- births, gallery openings, band dates, theater openings, races run and other significant personal events. However, please note that what can be printed is only what is known -- so don't be shy!

Send an announcement of your significant event for publication to the Natural News in the President's Office, or via E-mail to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org by ***Tuesday noon.***

IN SYMPATHY

We are saddened to report that longtime Field Museum volunteer **Gwen Barnett** passed away on March 11. Gwen's involvement with and commitment to The Museum stretches back Barnet more than twenty years. A member of the Museum since 1958 (with her husband, George **Barnett**), Gwen started her volunteer career at the Museum in October of 1975 in the Education Department. She gave programs in our Native American halls and Zoology exhibits, conducted Highlight tours, and worked in the King Tut and Bronze Age of China traveling exhibits. Starting in 1995 Gwen became a Visitor Services Ambassador, and in 1996 was awarded the Searle award for twenty years of volunteer service to The Museum.

Gwen had a long-standing professional interest in science, which made her involvement with the Field Museum a natural fit. She received an M.S. in Bacteriology from the University of Chicago in 1945, worked as a Bacteriologist at the U of C, and served as a substitute High School Biology teacher as well. Her expertise as a teacher and her commitment to The Museum's educational mission was felt by students of all ages during her twenty-one years with us. Countless children and adults have a better understanding of The Museum and its exhibits because they were able to see them through Gwen's eyes.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be sent to The Cancer Foundation, 800 Davis Street, Suite 206S, Evanston 60201.

Mark Alvey
Searle Volunteer Coordinator

UPDATED *CHILDREN AT WORK POLICY*

Included in this *Natural News* is an updated ***Children at Work Policy.*** Some staff expressed a desire that the Museum provide more flexibility regarding children at work than our old policy allowed. Based on that feedback, Administrative Docket drafted a revised policy. Members shared the revised policy with their departments, and Docket received many comments and suggestions from staff, both parents and non-parents. This updated policy addresses the concerns of the Museum while giving more flexibility to parents and guardians.

Moving forward as we work within the revised policy, if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Marilyn Martinson
Human Resources

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

The Field Museum

CHILDREN AT WORK POLICY[1]

Most recent revision: March 17, 1997

This policy is based on a sincere concern for the safety and welfare of children and consideration of efficient Museum operations. Younger children particularly must be supervised so they are kept from danger and from interfering with visitors, co-workers and normal business activities of the Museum. Situations have occurred that create a liability for the Museum and this is even more so with the increased activities at the Museum. We do not, under any circumstances, wish to endanger any child. While we share with working parents a genuine concern for their child's care, the Museum is not an environment designed for child care.

If circumstances arise that require a dependent child to be at the Museum while a staff member conducts work, approval from the supervisor or department chairperson is required. Permission may be given for a child to be at the Museum for a defined period of time to allow the parent/guardian to conduct short-time business activities. Such activities might include picking up mail and papers; signing documents; and other similar activities.

CONDITIONS OF POLICY

1) Employees must request approval from their supervisor or department chairperson for a child to be at the Museum while a parent/guardian conducts short-time business activities.

2) If the child needs to be in the office or department, the child's presence should not have a negative impact on colleagues or on normal business operations. The parent/guardian is responsible to supervise the child; it is not the responsibility of a staff member to provide supervision to a colleague's or supervisor's child. If the child does not need constant supervision, and will be free to be in the public Museum, the child should be of responsible age to avoid disruption or injury to self or to others.

3) The parent's work environment should be a safe place for children; if not, a young child does not belong there. Under no circumstances may a child be in any workplace area of the Museum where there are hazardous mechanicals, machinery, or chemicals.

4) Appropriately aged children may volunteer at the Museum. This must be accomplished through the Searle Volunteer Coordinator in the Education Department who will place the child into a volunteer arrangement not reporting to the parent or guardian. The minimum age for regular volunteer recruitment is 18. A teen program is available during the summer for ages 14 and older.

5) If a parent is volunteering for a public program activity and would like his or her child to participate, advance approval from the sponsoring department is required.

6) Granting permission to have a child at work must be reviewed as each circumstance arises. This is to prevent unworkable arrangements from continuing on an open-ended basis.

The Museum reserves the right to add to, modify, and/or eliminate this Museum policy at any time without prior notification.

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1. Written by Marilyn Martinson in collaboration with Administrative Docket. Effective March, 1997 and supersedes all such policies previously in effect.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HURRY! HURRY! COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR SALE!

Old Museum computer equipment that is no longer needed will be sold by closed bid next week. A variety of equipment is available, including PCS, monitors, printers, plotters and other miscellaneous items. Some equipment works, some does not. Equipment will be on display in the second floor Biochemistry/Computing light well Monday and Tuesday, March 24 and 25. Sealed bids may be submitted to **Tom Geary** in Purchasing either of these days. No bids will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Bids will be opened Wednesday, March 26 and staff will be notified later that day if their bid was successful. All equipment will be sold as is, and all sales are final. No support of any kind is offered with this equipment. Equipment must be removed from the Museum before 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27-- no exceptions. Any questions? call **Jim Koeppl** of Computing (x590).

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

NEW SEARLE LOUNGE EXHIBIT: 1996 GIFTS TO THE ANTHROPOLOGY COLLECTIONS

THE EXHIBIT

The Searle Lounge exhibit has been changed. The new exhibit features highlights from donations to Anthropology made during 1996. A total of sixty-one objects are included: thirty from Nigeria, twenty-five from Japan, four from China and two from Korea.

Our reasons for putting these objects on display are to show them off to the public, to thank the donors involved and to encourage other potential donors. In view of the very high prices for which many artifacts are now sold, gifts from collectors have become a critically important route to the improvement of anthropology collections in this and every other museum.

THE DONORS

Deborah Stokes Hammer and her husband, Jeffrey Hammer, traveled widely among the Yoruba people of Southwest Nigeria during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Over the past two decades, the Hammers have donated numerous fine African objects to The Field Museum. The current exhibition includes a selection from the latest donations from the Hammer collection. Most date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Pieces on display include not only Yoruba beadwork from the Hammers but also magnificent examples from James and Gladys Strain of New York and Ron Ziskin and Diane Wedner of California.

Ross Edman, of Lakeview in Chicago and Holland, Michigan, gave us an important collection of Far Eastern (mostly Japanese) art acquired at auctions and antique shops in the U.S. The Edman material is especially strong in 19th and 20th century ceramics but includes several paintings as well as lacquerwork, bronze and iron containers, and wooden objects. One of the finest pieces is a bowl by the great modern potter, Rosanjin. Lastinia Warren, a former Hyde Park resident now living in Southern California, gave us other Japanese ceramics. They had been collected in Japan by her late husband, Professor Charles Warren, a nationally-known forensic and physical anthropologist.

Youk R. and Jung K. Lee of Oak Brook gave us a number of fine Korean ceramics at the end of 1995. Two of their gifts are on display. Philip Pinsof, a retired Chicago manufacturer, has donated a number of high-quality late Chinese ceramics to us over the years. The cup on exhibition, marked with one of the seals of the Dowager Empress, is the latest of his gifts.

STAFF CREDITS

On the Anthropology Department side, research, object selection and label writing were done by **Ben Bronson** and three interns: **Jean Fraleigh, Elizabeth Breakstone** and **Amy Bachmann** with the advice of **Chap Kusimba**. **Wil Grewe-Mullins** installed the objects with assistance from one volunteer, **Lolly Levit**, and two interns, **Christine Pierce** and **Jennifer Obrist**, plus Bachmann and Bronson. From the Exhibits Department, the designer was **Brian Stacey** and the script editor and label producer was **Gene Dillenberg** (now in the Geology Department); **Mike Paha** gave technical advice and **John Petreikis** installed the on-glass case titles.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

Conservation Biologist **Tom Schulenberg** (of Conservation International, and in residence at Environmental and Conservation Programs) coordinated the first Rapid Assessment (RAP) expedition to Madagascar during February. The survey area, the Ankarafantsika plateau in northwestern Madagascar, is the largest tract of dry forest, now a highly fragmented habitat, remaining on that island. Despite being conducted during the wet season, and all the attendant problems that such a season can cause (we just missed a cyclone), the survey team not only was very productive, but managed to stay in remarkably good spirits throughout. The team was made up largely of Malagasy biologists, including two former participants in the Field Museum's Advanced Training Program in Conservation Biology, **Gabrielle Rajoelison** (forest ecology) and **Daniel Rakotondravony** (small mammals). The Field Museum's indefatigable explorer of all things Malagasy, Steve Goodman (Zoology), also joined the survey for one of the three study sites. The survey resulted in many new distributional records, discovered what probably are new species of a snake and of a rat, and will provide the baseline data necessary for developing a management plan for the forests.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday March 18, 1997 was delivered by **John Flynn,** MacArthur Curator and Chairman, Department of Geology, Field Museum. John discussed recent progress in his long term, multifaceted investigation of mammalian evolution in South America. He focused on the New World monkeys, and the phylogenetic affinities of *Chilecebus*, which is known from a single, nearly complete skull (excluding the lower jaw), dated at 20.09 my in age, found in the Chilean Andes. He reviewed techniques he and his co-workers have applied to precisely date the skull, define and analyze skull morphometrics, infer body mass, infer diet from the dentition, as well as test hypotheses of phylogenetic affinities. John summarized the attributes *Chilecebus* shares with Platyrrhine monkeys, but noted that a precursor must have had an African origin. Further studies are needed to resolve relations of *Chilecebus* within the Platyrrhine cluster.